GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4088
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2001
IMPORT OF SENSITIVE ITEMS
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of sensitive items has increased by 9% during the first six months of current year as reported in `Hindustan` of November 8,2001 under the caption `Samvedanshil Vastuon Ka Aayat 9 pratishat badha`;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to immediately bring down the import of sensitive category items?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a)(b)& (c) : At the time of perusal of Quantitative Restrictions this year, 300 items were identified as sensitive items. Import of these items is being monitored regularly. As per provisional estimates, import of these items for the first six months of the current year is Rs.6040 crore against Rs.5551 crore for the corresponding period of last year thereby showing a positive growth of 9%. However, detailed analysis of these sensitive items shows that growth is accounted for mainly due to increase in import of crude Soya bean oil to the extent of Rs 1031 crore and crude palm oil to the extent of Rs. 297 crore. For regulating the import of palm oil, the government has already fixed tariff value for assessment of custom duty. So far as Soya bean oil is concerned, the tariff increase option cannot be exercised as the WTO bound rate of duty on this item is only 45%.

Excluding these items, import of other sensitive items together indicates a decline in the value of import during the first six months of current year.